

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 (original). A gland packing material wherein said gland packing material is configured by a cord-like member (40) which is formed by stranding a strip-like base member (4), or winding a strip-like base member (4) about a longitudinal direction, or winding a strip-like base member (4) about a longitudinal direction and then stranding said base member,

said base member (4) comprises: a reinforcing member (20) configured by a fibrous material (2); and a strip-like expanded graphite (3),

said reinforcing member (20) is disposed at least on one face of said strip-like expanded graphite (3), and

both said reinforcing member (20) and said strip-like expanded graphite (3) are placed on an outer peripheral surface of said cord-like member (40).

2 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein one side end edge of said base member (4) is placed on an outer peripheral surface of said cord-like member (40), in the side end edge, one member (4a) of said reinforcing member (20) and said strip-like expanded graphite (3) is more elongated in a width direction than another member (4b), and

while said one member (4a) which is elongated in the width direction is placed on an inner side, and said other member (4b) which is short in the width direction is placed on an outer side, said base member (4) is stranded, or said base member (4) is stranded after said base member is wound about the longitudinal direction, whereby said reinforcing member (20) and said strip-like expanded graphite (3) are placed in a spiral manner to be alternately arranged in an axial direction on the outer peripheral surface of said cord-like member (40).

3 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing member (20) is formed to be smaller in width than said strip-like expanded graphite (3),

a plurality of said reinforcing members (20) are disposed at least on one face of said strip-like expanded graphite (3) with forming intervals therebetween in the width direction, and

while said small-width reinforcing members (20) are placed on an outer side, said base member (4) is stranded, or said base member (4) is stranded after said base member is wound about the longitudinal direction, whereby said reinforcing members (20) and said strip-like expanded graphite (3) are placed in a spiral manner to be alternately arranged in an axial direction on the outer peripheral surface of said cord-like member (40).

4 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein said base member (4) is stranded about an intermediate portion in a width direction of said base member (4), or said base member (4) is stranded after said base member is wound about the longitudinal direction in an intermediate portion in the width direction of said base member (4), thereby causing both side end edges of said base member (4) to be positioned on an outer peripheral surface of said cord-like member (40),

in one of said side end edges, said reinforcing member (20) is placed on an outer side, and, in another side end edge, said strip-like expanded graphite (3) is placed on an outer side, whereby said reinforcing member (20) and said strip-like expanded graphite (3) are placed in a spiral manner to be alternately arranged in an axial direction on the outer peripheral surface of said cord-like member (40).

5 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing member (20) is placed on the outer peripheral surface of said cord-like member (40), a large number of openings (20A) are formed in said reinforcing member (20), said strip-like expanded graphite (3) enters said openings (20A), and is exposed from the outer peripheral surface of said cord-like member (40) through said openings (20A).

6 (currently amended). A gland packing material according to claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein said reinforcing member (20) is disposed only on one face of said strip-like expanded graphite (3).

7 (currently amended). A gland packing material according to claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein said reinforcing member (20) is disposed on both faces of said strip-like expanded graphite (3).

8 (currently amended). A gland packing material according to claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein said fibrous material (2) is formed into a sheet-like shape, and said fibrous material sheet is configured by a fiber-opened sheet (2B) in which multifilament yarns are opened in a sheet-like shape.

9 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 8, wherein a thickness of said fiber-opened sheet (2B) is set to 10 μm to 300 μm .

10 (currently amended). A gland packing material according to claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein said fibrous material (2) is configured by one or two or more selected from the group consisting of carbon fibers and other brittle fibers, and tough fibers.

11 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 10, wherein said brittle fibers are configured by one or two or more selected from the group consisting of glass fibers, silica fibers, and ceramic fibers.

12 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 10, wherein said tough fibers are configured by one or two or more selected from the group consisting of metal fibers, aramid fibers, and PBO fibers.

13 (original). A gland packing wherein a plurality of gland packing materials (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 12 are used, and braided or twisted.